LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 11 (canceled).

comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:199 or SEQ ID NO:201 and wherein said persephin polypeptide promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

13 - 27 (canceled).

28. (currently amended) The An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 10 comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide, wherein the persephin polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:223, and wherein the persephin polypeptide promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

29. (currently amended) The An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 10 comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide, wherein the persephin polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:221, and wherein the persephin polypeptide promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

30 - 41 (canceled).

242. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence fully complementary to the nucleotide sequence of claim 12.

43 - 45 (canceled).